



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Care Quality
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Circular Letter: DHCQ 13-6-591

TO: Ambulatory Surgery Center Chief Executive Officers; Clinic Chief Executive Officers or Practice Managers; Dialysis Center Chief Executive Officers; Long Term Care Facility Administrators; Non-Acute Hospital Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Madeleine Biondolillo, MD *MB*
Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: June 17, 2013

RE: **Condition of Licensure:** Data Submission of Seasonal Influenza Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel at Massachusetts Clinics, Dialysis Centers, Long Term Care Facilities and Non-Acute Hospitals for the 2012-2013 Influenza Season

As a condition of licensure, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) regulations mandate licensed healthcare facilities to: offer, free-of charge, annual influenza vaccine to all personnel; document receipt of influenza vaccine administered within and outside the facility; or document the declination of immunization.¹ **Facilities are also required to report health care personnel influenza data annually to MDPH.**

The intention of the regulations is to protect the health and safety of both patients and health care workers by reducing the spread of influenza. The goal of this policy is to achieve healthcare personnel influenza vaccination coverage of 100% for those who do not have a medical contraindication.

On December 5, 2012, MDPH notified all licensed healthcare facilities by circular letter of this requirement, and provided links to the data reporting form and detailed reporting instructions.² Most facilities submitted the mandatory data for the 2012-2013 influenza season by the April 15, 2013 deadline.

Facilities that have not yet submitted the required data must comply immediately.

The reporting form and detailed instructions for completing the reporting requirements are available at the Division of Health Care Safety and Quality under "Health Care Quality Topics" at the following link. www.mass.gov/dph/dhcq. Once reaching the website, click on the "Influenza Vaccination Reporting 2012-2013" link to access reporting requirements and the data submission form.

In our ongoing commitment to promote transparency and accountability, MDPH will continue to publicly post the results of individual healthcare facilities' efforts in providing influenza coverage for healthcare personnel annually on our website. Failure to report the required data may result in the initiation of enforcement activity for failure to comply with applicable licensure requirements, up to and including issuance of a statement of deficiency and revocation of licensure. Compliance with this regulatory requirement may be assessed during surveys currently conducted by MDPH.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support of this important patient safety initiative.

Please submit questions related to this communication to dhcq.fludata@state.ma.us

¹ 105 CMR 130.325, 105 CMR 140.150, 105 CMR 150.002(D) (8) available at www.mass.gov/dph.

² <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/quality/hcq-circular-letters/2012/dhcq-1212580.pdf>